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REMARKS

As filed, this application contained claims 1-16. With this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 3 and 9 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-16 remain pending. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Specification is amended herein to change the title of the invention to "Box Lock With Safety Device", as requested by the Examiner. No new matter is added by this amendment to the Specification.

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 7 has been amended accordingly.

In the Office Action dated July 17, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Peters (U.S. Pat. No. 4,438,964). The Examiner further rejected claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Peters. The Examiner further rejected claims 4, 10, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Peters and Tomaszewski et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,749). Claims 5, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters, in view of Tomaszewski et al., and further in view of Orr (U.S. Pat. No. 3,824,817). It is submitted that the pending claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable from the art on which the Examiner has relied and, accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 all call for both a key lock mechanism and a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed. The prior art on which the Examiner has relied neither teaches nor suggests the invention as defined in independent claims 1, 7, and 13. In particular, Peters does not describe or suggest a lock for a lid that has both a key lock mechanism as defined in these claims and a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed. Peters discloses two different embodiments of the latch mechanism that are shown in Figures 1 and 11 respectively. Figure 1 illustrates a latch mechanism having a locking means 36 that allows the

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latch to be locked to the latch post. As noted at column 3, lines 29-42, the lock 36 includes a locking bar 138 having ends 140 and 144. When the locking bar 138 is in its first pivotal position as shown in Fig. 1, its second end 144 is clear of second end 84 of the latch bar 26. However, when the locking bar 138 is moved to a second pivotal position using a key, its second end 144 engages second end 84 of latch bar 26 to prevent retraction of the latch bar. In other words, once the lock is at its second pivotal position (not illustrated), the latch bar 26 can not be moved to the right to release the latch from the latch post.

Fig. 11 illustrates a latch mechanism that does not include a lock. Here, the latch bar can be released by pulling a cable 146 attached to lever 147. This moves the latch bar to the right.

In summary, Fig. 1 illustrates a latch mechanism with a key lock mechanism and Fig. 11 shows a latch mechanism with what could be termed a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed. However, these two features from the two separate embodiments cannot be used together to produce an operable device. This is because when the lock of Figure 1 is in its second pivotal position, the latch bar is prevented from moving. Adding the second manipulator of Fig. 11 to what is shown in Fig. 1 will not produce the invention as defined, because the second manipulator will not operate to move the holding member (the latch bar) from a locking position to its unlocking position, as defined by the claims.

Claims 2 and 4-6, claims 8 and 10-12, and claims 14-16 are dependent on claims 1, 7 and 13 respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, each dependent claim adds structural limitations, which, in combination with the limitations of its respective base claim, are novel and non-obvious over the prior art on which the Examiner has relied.

The prior art, which the Examiner has made of record but upon which the Examiner has not relied, has been reviewed but does not appear to be pertinent to applicant's pending claims.

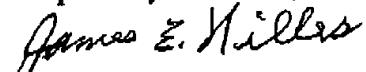
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All claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art on which the Examiner has relied in this application and in view of the general level of skill in the art. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-16 is respectfully solicited.

A marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims is attached and entitled *Version With Markings to Show Changes Made*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any extension or additional fees associated with this or any other communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1080.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE TITLE:

Cancel the present title and substitute -- BOX LOCK WITH SAFETY DEVICE --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3 and 9.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 as follows:

1. (Amended) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, wherein one of the box and the lid is a first part and the other is a second part, the lock comprising:

a latch provided on the first part, wherein the latch engages a catch, which is on the second part, to prevent the lid from opening when the lid is closed;

a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member engages the latch at the locking position and is disengaged from the latch at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; [and]

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled; and

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position.

Please cancel claim 3.

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7. (Amended) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, the lock comprising:

a catch extending from an inner surface of the box;

a latch provided on the lid, wherein the latch engages the catch to prevent the lid from opening when the lid is closed;

a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member keeps the latch engaged with the catch when located at the locking position and releases the [latch] catch from the latch when located at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position when enabled; [and]

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled; and

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position.

Please cancel claim 9.

11. (Amended) The lock according to claim [4] 10, further comprising a restricting member for restricting a rotation range of the rotor.

13. (Amended) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, the lock comprising:

a catch extending from an inner surface of the box;

a latch provided on the lid, wherein the latch engages the catch to prevent the lid from

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opening when the lid is closed;

a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member keeps the latch engaged with the catch when located at the locking position and releases the catch from the latch when located at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

a second manipulator formed integrally with the holding member for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled.